

Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) A method comprising:
 - a) generating a first light signal adjacent a pathway of an automated banking machine with a light source, wherein the light signal includes an intensity that changes over time in a first pattern, wherein the automated banking machine includes a cash dispenser;
 - b) detecting the first light signal with a light detector positioned adjacent the pathway;
 - c) determining with the machine that the intensity of the detected first light signal varies in time with a pattern that corresponds to the first pattern; and
 - d) responsive to (c) moving at least one item through the pathway.
2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one item includes a sheet of currency.
3. (currently amended) ~~The A method according to claim 1, further comprising:~~

- a) generating a first light signal adjacent a pathway in an automated banking machine with a light source, wherein intensity of the light signal changes with time in an output pattern, wherein the automated banking machine includes a cash dispenser;
- b) detecting intensity of the first light signal with a light detector positioned adjacent the pathway;
- c) determining with the machine that intensity of the detected first light signal in (b) varies with time in a detected pattern that corresponds to the output pattern;
- d) responsive to the determination in (c), operating the machine to move at least one item in the pathway;
- e) detecting a second light signal with the light detector; and
- f) determining with the machine that the intensity of the detected second light signal in (e), does not have an intensity that varies in ~~vary with~~ time with a in a detected pattern that corresponds to the first output pattern.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

- g) generating a message responsive to (f);
- h) sending with the machine the message to a remote server.

5. (original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

- g) placing the automated banking machine in an out of service state.

6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a sensor circuit includes the light source and the light detector, further comprising:

- e) periodically calibrating the sensor circuit.

7. (currently amended) ~~The A method comprising according to claim 6, wherein step (e) includes:~~

- a) generating a first light signal adjacent a pathway in an automated banking machine with a light source, wherein intensity of the light signal changes with time in an output pattern, wherein the automated banking machine includes a cash dispenser;

- b) detecting intensity of the first light signal with a light detector positioned adjacent the pathway, wherein the light source and light detector are in operative connection with a sensor circuit;
- c) determining with the machine that the intensity of the detected first light signal in (b) varies with time in a detected pattern that corresponds to the output pattern;
- d) responsive to the determination in (c), operating the machine to move at least one item in the pathway;
- e) periodically calibrating the sensor circuit, including:
 - f) e1) turning the light source off;
 - g) e2) detecting a second light signal with the light detector;
 - h) e3) determining with the sensor circuit a baseline voltage value associated with the detected second light signal;
 - i) e4) operating the light source to produce a third light signal with a range of light intensities;

- j) e5) detecting the third light signal with the light detector;
- k) e6) determining with the sensor circuit a maximum voltage level value associated with the detected third light signal;
- l) e7) determining with the sensor circuit a lower threshold value responsive to at least one of the baseline voltage value and the maximum voltage value.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein (c) includes:

- m) generating a voltage value associated with the first light signal using the sensor circuit; and
- n) determining that the voltage value associated with the second light signal is at least one of equal to or and greater than the lower threshold value.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

- m) f) detecting a second fourth light signal with the light detector;
- n) g) generating a voltage value associated with the second fourth light signal using the sensor circuit;

o) h) determining that the voltage value associated with the ~~second~~ fourth light signal is at least one of equal to ~~or~~ and less than the lower threshold value; and

p) i) responsive to (h), generating a message with the machine representative of the passageway being blocked.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

m) f) determining a re-calibration threshold value between the lower threshold value and the maximum voltage value;

n) g) detecting a ~~second~~ fourth light signal with the light detector;

o) h) generating a voltage value associated with the ~~second~~ fourth light signal using the sensor circuit;

p) i) determining that the voltage value associated with the ~~second~~ fourth light signal is at least one of equal to or less than the re-calibration threshold value;

k) j) responsive to the determination in (i) re-performing (e).

11. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first pattern includes a plurality of changes in light intensity.

12. (new) Computer readable media bearing software instructions which are operative to cause at least one processor in the machine to cause the machine to carry out the method steps recited in claim 1.

13. (new) Computer readable media bearing software instructions which are operative to cause at least one processor in the machine to cause the machine to carry out the method steps recited in claim 3.

14. (new) Computer readable media bearing software instructions which are operative to cause at least one processor in the machine to cause the machine to carry out the method steps recited in claim 7.

15. (new) Apparatus comprising:

an automated banking machine including:

a currency dispenser;

at least one processor;

a currency pathway;

at least one sensor circuit, wherein the at least one sensor circuit is in operative connection with a radiation source and a radiation detector positioned adjacent the pathway;

wherein the at least one sensor circuit is operative to cause the radiation source to output radiation having intensity that changes with time in a first pattern;

wherein the at least one sensor circuit is operative to receive a detected radiation signal responsive to radiation sensed with the radiation detector;

wherein at least one of the at least one processor and the at least one circuit is operative to determine whether the detected radiation signal changes in intensity in a second pattern which corresponds to the first pattern;

wherein when the at least one of the at least one processor and the at least one circuit determines that the detected radiation signal changes in intensity in a second pattern which corresponds to the first pattern, the at least one of the at least

one processor and the at least one circuit is operative to enable movement of currency in the pathway; and

wherein when the at least one of the at least one processor and the at least one circuit determines that the detected radiation signal does not change in intensity in a second pattern which corresponds to the first pattern, the at least one of the at least one processor and the at least one circuit is operative to not enable currency to move in the pathway.

16. (new) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the at least one processor is operative to send a message from the automated banking machine to a remote server responsive to the at least one of the at least one processor and the at least one circuit determining that the detected radiation signal does not change in intensity in a second pattern which corresponds to the first pattern.

17. (new) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the at least one processor is operative to cause the automated banking machine to switch to an out of service state responsive to the at least one of the at least one processor and the at least one circuit determining that the detected radiation signal does not change in intensity in a second pattern which corresponds to the first pattern.

18. (new) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the first pattern includes a plurality of changes in light intensity.

19. (new) A method comprising:

- a) operating a radiation source in a currency dispensing automated banking machine, to output radiation, wherein the radiation output changes intensity a plurality of times in a first pattern during a first period of time, wherein the radiation output from the radiation source passes through at least a portion of a currency pathway in the automated banking machine;
- b) during the first period, detecting radiation from the radiation source with a radiation detector positioned adjacent the currency pathway;
- c) determining through operation of the banking machine that intensity of the detected radiation during the first period changes in a second pattern that corresponds to the first pattern; and
- d) responsive to the determination in (c), enabling at least one currency sheet to move in the currency pathway.

20. (new) Computer readable media bearing software instructions which are operative to cause at least one processor in an automated banking machine to cause the machine to carry out the method steps recited in claim 19.